



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 27, 2015

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## MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during March 2015 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 15 percent from March 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 612,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent from March 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,032 pounds.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 220,000 pounds live weight, up 75 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, up 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 41 pounds from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States – Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.06 billion pounds in March, up 7 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in March 2014.

**Beef production**, at 1.93 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.38 million head, down 3 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,348 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.9 million pounds, 21 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 39,700 head, down 26 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from last year, at 295 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.11 billion pounds, up 14 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.89 million head, up 14 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.3 million pounds, was up 8 percent from March 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,600 head, 8 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

**January to March 2015 commercial red meat production** was 11.9 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 24 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

**March 2014** contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

**March 2015** contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*